



Essex Ringing Course 2020

The 29th Essex Ringing Course will be held on 16–18 April 2020 based at the Honeywood School, Coggeshall.

Tutor groups on offer are:

- Bell-handling from scratch (Learning the Ropes Level 1)
- Foundation skills (Learning the Ropes Level 2)
- Introduction to Change Ringing (Learning the Ropes Level 3)
- Advanced Plain Hunt
- Plain Bob Doubles inside
- Plain Bob Minor inside
- Grandsire (Doubles / Triples)
- Moving on from Plain Bob (plain doubles / minor methods)
- Treble Bob Minor
- Calling & Conducting touches

ART Teaching Modules 1 and 2 may be available as part of the course. Please see the application information for details.

There will be an additional programme of seminars and practical sessions on a wide variety of ringing topics.

Helpers are also required for each group – information on applying to be a helper will be available in the course brochure.

We are keen to create opportunities for people to develop teaching skills. If you have recently completed an ART teaching course and would be interested in finding out about shadowing a teacher on the course please contact Anne Bray for further information (email to essexcourse@eacr.org.uk).

The course brochure and application information will be available on the EACR website at www.eacr.org.uk/course. Applications should be made online if possible.

If you do not have internet access application information is available by sending a stamped self-addressed C5 envelope to Mrs Anne Bray, 7 D'Arcy Close, Kirby Cross, CO13 0RR.

Closing date for applications Friday 21 February 2020

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Annual Subscriptions for 2020

Adults **£8** Juniors/friends **£4**

Subscriptions to the Association are due on 1st January 2020. Rates remain the same - £8 for ringing members (i.e. all members or prospective members aged over 18 on 1st January 2019) and £4 for junior members or friends.

Subscriptions are one of the primary sources of Association revenue and it is very important for members to pay their subscription promptly. If you are a tax payer, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription (forms can be downloaded from the Association website).

All subscriptions should be paid by 30th April 2020. Members not paying by this date shall not participate in or vote at meetings (e.g. District meetings or the AGM) or ring peals for the Association until the subscription is paid.

Those members whose annual subscriptions are not paid by 31st December 2019 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Association and their names shall not be published in the 2019 Annual Report.

Lapsed members may be readmitted to membership without election in the year following non-payment (i.e. 2020) if payment of the arrears and the current year's subscription are received by 30th April 2020. However, after this date lapsed members shall be re-elected in accordance with normal procedures.

Completion of a Membership Form is mandatory and no elections should take place without a completed form which must be submitted to the District Secretary before the start of a District meeting. The current form can be downloaded from the EACR website.

Your District Treasurer will be in attendance at the annual district meeting in January. Why not go along and find out what is going on in your District, take part in some ringing and a bit of a social as well as ensuring your subscriptions are paid.

Benefits of membership

- Every member receives an annual report

- Each member is covered by the Association's group personal accident and public liability policies
- Members can take part in Association activities
- Each tower receives a copy of the newsletter 'Rounds and About' three times a year

If you have any queries about membership or subscriptions then please let me know.

Please pay your subscriptions promptly and before 30 April 2020 – it greatly helps the finances and the running of the Association.

Andrew Brewster
Association Treasurer (treasurer@eacr.org.uk)

Essex Young Ringers events 2020

Provisional Dates for Essex Young Ringers Practices and Dates for Outings and Contests in 2020

Sunday 26 January – Practices start at 4.30pm

Sunday 23 February – Practice

Saturday 28 March – Half Day Mini-outing and evening social

Saturday 4 April – Fifth SE England Youth Striking Contest (SECON) at Writtle,
Essex hosted by the Essex Association

Sunday 26 April – Practice

Sunday 31 May – Practice

Sunday 21 June – Practice

Sunday 28 June (pm) – Ringing World National Youth Contest mini-outing

Saturday 4 July – RWNYP in York

Sunday 19 July – Practice

Saturday 26 September – Day Outing

Sunday 25 October – Practice

Sunday 29 November – Practice

Essex Young Ringers outing to Kent *by Oliver Lee*

On the 28th September, the Essex Young Ringers held their annual outing around the Rochester district of the county of Kent. The first tower of the day was the pretty average anti clockwise 14cwt ring of eight at Northfleet. Although the bells were for many years a 6, they were later augmented to eight by Alfred Bowell in 1920 before being rehung by Whitechapel in 2011 but they still seem heavy going for their weight. Access to the ringing chamber is via the boiler room and the tower captain told me that he and his band were gassed when ringing for morning service after a flue had been misplaced but fortunately for us, we suffered no ill effects after ringing here.



Pocahontas statue

After a quick drive across Gravesend we reached our second tower which was the glorious Taylor octave at St Georges weighing 14cwt and cast in 1923 by Taylors. The church was built in 1727 to replace an older structure burnt in a fire of 1723 and is reputedly the burial site of princess Pocahontas who is commemorated by a Victorian statue. There was some confusion over the clock hammers but once they were finally turned off ringing commenced and several good touches of Grandsire, Stedman and plain hunt were rung before we all headed off for lunch.

Our post lunch tower was the light (if slightly noisy) ring of six at Chalk, originally an ancient four; these bells were augmented in 1998 thanks to money from the Millennium Commission and seem to go rather well.

Here we rang mainly Bob minor, Grandsire and call changes before going over to Shorne which should've been the fourth tower but as we arrived in the midst of a Christening, we had to cut our time short here. The bells themselves are a complete Mears six from 1803 and were last

rehung in 1913 by Alfred Howell, the church itself has a Dickensian connection as it was where Dickens originally intended to be buried but overflowing was the popularity, he was later buried in Poets corner at Westminster Abbey.

After a quick retreat back to Chalk we moved onto our fifth tower which was the interesting 16cwt eight at Swanscombe, although this tower possessed a good band during the 1890s it was painfully apparent that the bells hadn't been rung for a good while as the ringing chamber is a choir vestry and we had to shift various items of debris out of the tower before we could start. Due to the bad go ringing was limited to Bob Triples, plain hunt and call changes but it would be fair to say that with a bit of rehanging these bells could probably be a fine ring but at present they leave much to be desired.

Our final tower was the nice light six at Stone by Dartford, the bells here have an interesting history they were removed from St Pauls Homerton in 1983 after that church was declared redundant but for many years, they were stored in the foundry yard before being bought in 2010. We personally found them a delightful ring and several of our party took the opportunity to view the bells before we rang several touches of Bob doubles, Stedman doubles, call changes and plain hunt.

Once we had finished we bade farewell and many of us returned home tired but quite happy with a feeling of satisfaction.

I would like to thank Christina for organising a successful outing, those who had the responsibility of driving (especially across the Dartford crossing!) and of course the tower captains and incumbents of the various towers.



Chalk

ART Accreditation

Have you undertaken ART Module 1 or Module 2 teacher training but not got around to getting your Accreditation?

Below is a summary of Essex ringers who have taken Module 1 or 2 although it should be noted that the data was extracted on 25th August 2019 and therefore may not be up to date.

Module 1

Total number of people attended	89
Not passed theory test	34 (dating back to 2010)
Passed Theory but not accredited	21 (dating back to 2012)
Mentors not accredited	8

Module 2F

Total number of people attended	16
Not passed theory test	6 (dating back to 2019)
Passed theory but not accredited	9 (dating back to 2019)

Module 2C

Total number of people attended	32
Not passed theory test	15 (dating back to 2010)
Passed theory but not accredited	11 (dating back to 2015)

There are 22 active ART trained (but not necessarily accredited) teachers with students in the Learning the Ropes scheme.

You and your Mentor should be confident that you are ready for your assessed session, and you must have completed the theory test on SmartRinger, then you can contact one of the Assessors to come along to watch you in action. We are lucky to have a number of Assessors in Essex who would be happy to help with any aspect of the assessment process:

David Sparling	M1 & M2
Ian Kerwin	M1
Roger Collins	M1
Vicki Chapman	M1 & M2

Do get in touch if you need any support in any aspect of the ART modules and assessment process. Our contact information is available via the EACR Annual Report, website or through the SmartRinger website.

Vicki Chapman

Thank you

Thank you to all those who contributed so generously to the sweepstake on the length of the speeches at the County Dinner. Of the money raised I have sent £29.00 to the homeless charity 'Crisis' for one place at the Christmas table and £12.00 to the Ada Cole, Redwings, centre for rescued horses and donkeys near Epping.

Lynda Lee

Practice Diary

Dec	11	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
	20	Surprise major practice	Felsted	N/NW	2:00
	21	Advance practice	(tba)	N	7:30
Jan	4	District learners' practice	South Ockendon	S	10:00
	8	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
Feb	12	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
Mar	11	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30
Apr	8	10-bell Practice	Coggeshall	N	7:30

*No other practices notified at press date.
Please refer to the [website](#) for further information.*

The 2019 Essex Association Dinner

The 65th Annual Dinner of the Essex Association took place on Saturday 19th October 2019 and saw a return to Benton Hall. Ninety four ringers, friends and guests gathered for pre-dinner drinks before the official welcome from the Master, Andrew Kelso. Andrew introduced our guests for the evening, the Revd Paul Watkin, the Association's Chaplain; Alan Regin MBE, Steward of the Central Council's Rolls of Honour; and our newly elected Life Vice Presidents Mary Bone and Yvonne Towler, and newly elected Life Member Clive Stephenson. Most notable at this year's dinner was a table of Essex Young Eagles, the Association's young ringers group.



Dinner guests

Dinner ensued and drinks flowed, as did the conversations and laughter. New and old friendships reignited where ringing ability was irrelevant. Friendship was very much the theme for the evening.

In his summary of the year, the Master highlighted the achievements of the Essex Young Eagles who were placed 3rd in SEECON, and 7th out of 24 in the National Youth Competition in Liverpool. Their achievements met with enthusiastic applause, and

as the Master said "In the Essex Young Eagles will be a future master, or secretary, or public relations officer, or regular and dedicated Sunday Service ringer – all of equal importance to the exercise".

Although peal ringing had declined this year all was not lost. The benefits of peal ringing; the sense of satisfaction and bettering our own ringing, is not just for the elite. The Master pledged to help anyone to ring a peal, whether their first, or for improving their own skill.



Andrew Kelso, Master

In his early years the Master changed friendship allegiances on a regular basis but has found through ringing that friendships were enduring and even though there may be concentration in the tower, the camaraderie is maintained through the social activities that bell ringing provides.

In proposing a toast to the Church, the Master proffered that our closest friend is the church, providing a place to practise our exercise, pastoral support, protection and our moral backbone.

In reply, Rev Paul Watkin echoed those sentiments adding that the sign of the life within the church is outwardly facing. If the outside of a church looks and sounds inviting then the call to worship is greater, whether there be a clock that tells the right time (at least twice a day), a flag or the sound of the bells. He added that the sound of bells transcends language, tradition (whether high or low church or somewhere in between), denominations, age, gender and so on. Rev Paul called us to celebrate all that we do to bring the worshipping life of faith.



Rev Paul Watkin

Alan Regin, MBE, in proposing his toast to the Association, told of great Essex ringers of the past and his trips abroad, emphasising the experience of great camaraderie and getting to visit many special places. Alan provided an outline of his work with the Rolls of Honour and highlighted two Essex ringers who had died during the Great War: Major George Bernard Ward from Foxearth and Driver Harry Phillip Saffell of Leytonstone both of whom are commemorated on the Association's memorial in Chelmsford Cathedral. Alan was pleased to hear of plans to update the memorial to include the names of other ringers that had subsequently been found. He paid tribute to Ian Culham, a serving Army Officer, who had arranged many peals to remember the Essex ringers. Alan praised the Ringing Remembers campaign that sprung from an idea of his to replace the 1,400 ringers that



Alan Regin, MBE

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were known (at that time) to have died and the work that was led by Essex ringers in recruiting well over that target.

Alan went on the praise the work of the Association in supporting bell restoration work, the Essex Young Eagles - the future of our exercise led by Christina Brewster, and the recruitment and training through the Essex Ringing Course and ART accredited teachers.

Our newly elected Life Vice Presidents and Life Member were presented with their certificates and our guests were duly toasted and thanked for their friendship and company.



Mary Bone, LVP



Yvonne Towler, LVP



Clive Stephenson, LM

The evening continued with friendships sustained. Our thanks to Andrew Brewster and the Social Committee for arranging another great evening.

Vicki Chapman

Safeguarding Guidance – June 2019 update

As mentioned in Chris Mew's article in The Ringing World in September (page 904), Chris has prepared a new set of guidance on safeguarding; this is now available here: <https://ccabr.org.uk/resources/stewardship-and-management/> (select the Tower Operation tab).

This includes the guidance and 3 appendices. The guidance and appendices are also available separately so that they can be customised as necessary and used appropriately.

Appendix A is a sample role description for completion for a bell ringing leader, Appendix B is a sample role description for completion for a safeguarding officer of a society, Appendix C is a good practice guide for display in your tower (after removing any other out of date guidance that may be there).

Please note the following from the guidance – “Most ringing towers come under the jurisdiction of the Church of England, Church in Wales and Scottish churches all of which have common requirements. The UK legal requirements extend to other denominations and secular rings, whilst churches and ringing establishments outside the UK will be subject to local laws. In all cases ringers should maintain good practice principles whenever dealing with young and vulnerable persons.”

May we take this opportunity to thank Chris Mew for all the work that he has done for the Council and ringers more generally for many years. As he said in his article, he is handing over this responsibility at the end of 2019.

Alison Hodge
SM Workgroup Lead, Central Council
(smlead@ccabr.org.uk)

That's a First!

Quarter peals:

- 1st quarter at 1st attempt: Sandra Murphy
1st quarter: Sarah Coogan, Alexandria Bessent, Robert Macauley, Lennon Jones
1st as tenor cover: Emily A Brooks, Theo Johnson, Sandra Murphy
1st inside: Sarah Robbins (aged 11), Carolyn McAllister, Helen Bridgman
1st Plain Bob Doubles: Hilary C Walls
1st St Martin's Bob Doubles: David Thorpe
1st Grandsire Doubles: Hilary C Walls, Matthew Brown
1st spliced Doubles: David Buckley
1st Stedman Doubles: Ellie Gray
1st away from tenor: Simon N Ward, Josh Ashley
1st Minor: Helen Bridgman
1st Plain Bob Minor: Megan Ellis, Amanda Beggs
1st St Clement's Bob Minor: Beth Johnson, Ian Stockwell, Mark Robbins,
Daniel Howell
1st Double Oxford Bob Minor: James Green, Vicki Elliott, Gavin S Carpenter
1st Spliced Minor: David French
1st Triples: Paul T Crick, Lucas Bent
1st Plain Bob Triples: Jaime Hamper
1st on 8: Hayden R Musham
1st St Clement's Bob Major: Helen Harpole, Richard Major
1st Kent & Oxford Treble Bob Major: William Beech, Louise Booth, Andrew
Beech
1st Grandsire Caters: Trevor E Church
1st on 10: Alwyn Brock, Vicki Elliott
1st on 10 away from cover: John M Church
1st Royal: Samuel Beech
1st Surprise Royal: Andrew Beech
1st Spliced Surprise Royal: Vicki Chapman, Carol Brown, Hazel Steed, Matthew
Bayley
100th of Cambridge Surprise Minor: Ian Cresshull
200th quarter: John M Church
400th quarter: Vicki L Chapman
1000th quarter: Cathryn Corns
1350th quarter: John Harpole

Information to end of October. Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

1500th quarter: Vicky LeFèvre
 1875th quarter: Dennis Ellisdon
 1st as Conductor: Mandy Miles, William Beech
 1st Stedman as Conductor: Bradley Hill
 1st Royal as Conductor: Bradley Hill

Peals:

1st peal: Jane Eastall
 1st inside: John Everett
 1st on 8: John Everett
 1750th peal: Jeremy W Spiller
 6000th tower bell peal: Alan Regin
 50th together: Jon Waters & Colin F Chapman
 Yvonne Towler has now rung a peal on all 366 days of the year.

Dates for your Diary

Dec	7	Association Carol Service	Coggeshall		2:30
Jan	4	Annual District Meeting	Maldon (All Ss)	SE	2:30
		Annual District Meeting	Witham	N	3:30
	11	Annual District Meeting	Tendring (tbc)	NE	3:00
		Annual District Meeting	(tba)	SW	3:00
	18	Annual District Meeting	Thorpe Bay	S	3:00
25	Annual District Meeting	Bishop's Stortford	NW	4:00	
Feb	1	Association Committee Meeting			
Apr 16–18		Essex Ringing Course	Coggeshall		

The Semken Scholarship

Each year on the Essex Ringing Course, a bursary is offered to a young Essex ringer (under 25) in memory of Adrian Semken, the Course founder. The bursary covers the full course fee for the selected young ringer.

If you would like to apply for the bursary for 2020, please email Anne Bray, Course Administrator at essexcourse@eacr.org.uk giving a brief outline of your ringing career to date.

The successful applicant will be required to submit an article on the Course for publication in the Essex Association newsletter.

The 2019 award was given to Matthew Melton. You can read his article below.

My Experience on the Essex Ringing Course 2019

by Matthew Melton

Day 1

For me day one was probably my favourite day of the three because we got to meet our group. The tower we went to was Danbury and in my opinion it was the nicest tower because I liked the bells. You need to climb up some ladders and I like doing that but all three of the towers had stairs. After registration we went to our classes and introduced ourselves. Richard (our tutor) gave us a booklet and we had a brief scan of the contents inside and he told us what we would be doing then we set off to Danbury.

When we first arrived at Danbury, Richard put the students in one at a time so he could get a feel for our skill level after that we went for lunch. When we came back from lunch we did some call changes. After we finished ringing at Danbury we went back to Coggeshall, had coffee and went to our next lecture. I chose to go to Understanding and Calling Call Changes. I found it very helpful.

Day 2

Day 2 was the longest day out of all of them in my opinion. When I first got there it was recommended that I should have a go on the Saxilby Simulator – it's just a simulation of bell ringing but with a computer. After that we went to our second

tower, Pebmarsh. In my opinion Danbury might be the nicest but Pebmarsh is the coolest because the ladder that we had to go up was rather tall and it was best experience of going up ladders out of all the others.

For the first part our practical lesson we did basically the same as day 1 then we had lunch. When we came back, Richard introduced a new method - the kaleidoscope. I enjoyed learning this method because it requires changing often and if it is played right it sounds good. After these ringing sessions we went back to coggeshall and I helped out abit by setting up somethings for the social evening. After I finished helping out I had to go home.

Day 3

After coffee on the final day, we headed to our final tower – Felsted. The steps there definitely win for the most creepy but I did like these steps because they were are spiral.

For the first part of the practical ringing we just did the usual call changes then we headed to lunch. After lunch we did some kaleidoscope on strokes H B H B which was not too hard. Then, for the final part, Richard made us call the call changes 2 learners would be ringing on the bells and 4 would be saying the call changes. He made us call queens to kings to reverse rounds then to tittums. Then went back to coggeshall for our final meeting and dismissal and I was awarded with this scholarship and that is why I am writing this.



In conclusion I really did enjoy this course. It might not have looked like it, but I did; from meeting new people to ringing in new towers and the supportiveness from others. I would recommend this course for anyone trying to learn how to ring or if you have a interest in bell ringing.

From the Registers

60th birthday: Charles Cope

70th birthday: Colin Wright, Cherry Threadgold, John Everett

80th birthday: Ken Elliott, Tony Ammerlaan

90th birthday: Kath Childs

95th birthday: Ron Brown

Marriage: Charmane May (formerly of Little Baddow) & Euan McPherson; Michele Hilbrow (Goldhanger) & John Williams; Philip Spalding (Inworth) & Alex Priestley; Phoebe Hayes (formerly of Great Bentley) & Paul Marcinkowski; Laura Wood & Christopher Lee (Loughton)

50th wedding anniversary: Wendy & Richard Godden; David & Jenny Barclay; Peter & Jo Brown; John & Suzanne Cousins; Roger & Mary Folley; Jim & Yvonne Towler; David & Penny Learmonth

60th wedding anniversary: Mary & Joe Roast; Brian & Iris Patmore

65th wedding anniversary: Peter & Kath Childs

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Vic Dale, Life Member, of South Weald; Ken Wood, formerly of Nazeing; Dorothy Dale, Life Member, of South Weald; Richard (Dick) J Harrison, formerly of Broomfield and Sandon; David Drinkell, formerly of Colchester (St Leonard-at-the-Hythe); Ian Valentine, of Wivenhoe; Michael Abrahams, of Earls Colne; and Bernard Sadler, Life Member, of Prittlewell.

2021 Annual District Meetings

There will be five Saturdays in January 2021. As agreed last time this happened, the ADM dates will be adjusted:

9 January: N and SE

16 January : NE and SW

23 January: S

30 January: NW

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for April 2020. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to newsletter@eacr.org.uk or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1 March 2020**.